

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended)      A piston ring compressor for compressing piston rings about a piston, wherein the portion of the ring compressor which contacts the piston rings comprises a polymer coating, wherein the polymer is a plastic, a thermoplastic, a thermoset or a thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 17 (Original)      The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of a polyisocyanate, a polyurethane, a polyester, a polyethylene, an UHMWPE, a polybutylene, a polypropylene, a plastisol, a polyacrylic, a polyether ketone, a polyphenyl sulfone, a polyvinyl, a polyvinylidene, a silicone, a polyisoprene, an epoxy, a polychloroprene, a polyether imide, a polybenzimidazole, an ABS alloy, a fluoropolymer, an ionomer resin, a polyamide, a polyimide, a polyamideimide, a vinyl acetate, a co-polymer thereof, a polymer blend thereof or a combination thereof.

Claim 18 (Original)      The ring compressor of claim 17, wherein the polymer is a fluoropolymer.

Claim 19 (Original)      The ring compressor of claim 18, wherein the fluoropolymer is a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), a perfluoroalkoxy (PFA), an ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE), a fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP) or a polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF).

Claim 20 (Original)      The ring compressor of claim 17, wherein the polymer is polyamide.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented)      The ring compressor of claim 20, wherein the polyamide is a nylon.

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| Claim 22 (Previously Presented) | The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the entire ring compressor comprise a polymer coating.  |
| Claim 23 (Currently Amended)    | The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the polymer has a <u>static</u> coefficient of friction of 1.0 or less when measured against steel. |
| Claim 24 (Currently Amended)    | The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the polymer has a <u>static</u> coefficient of friction of 0.5 or less when measured against steel. |
| Claim 25 (Currently Amended)    | The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the polymer has a <u>static</u> coefficient of friction of 0.1 or less when measured against steel. |
| Claim 26 (Previously Presented) | The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the polymer has a hardness value greater than 25 on the Shore D hardness scale.                     |
| Claim 27 (Previously Presented) | The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the polymer has a hardness capable of being measured on the Rockwell R hardness scale.              |
| Claim 28 (New)                  | The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the polymer further comprises a synthetic fiber.  |